

August 21, 2014

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners:

I appreciate this opportunity to write to you, as Vice-Chair of the board of the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO), to let you know that county officials throughout America's 3,069 counties, boroughs, and parishes are in full support of the proposed Comcast and Time Warner transaction. This plan represents a remarkable opportunity for many of the citizens we collectively represent.

I've seen the positive changes that Comcast can bring in Caddo Parish, LA, where I have been a commissioner since 2004. Just 22 percent of our residents have earned a college degree and nearly 20 percent live below the poverty level. There appears to be a direct correlation between education and access to the Internet. Those with more education tend to have better access. Sadly, a lack of education appears to be perpetuated through barriers to information that is freely available – if only one can access the Internet.

In Louisiana, access to the Internet and its wealth of resources is among the lowest in the nation, with only 58.5 percent of the state's residents reporting a home Internet connection, according to the most recent U.S. Census figures.

Comcast is known for its commitment to getting disadvantaged Americans connected to the Internet – more than 1.2 million at last count through the Internet Essentials plan. Many additional constituents of NOBCO membership affiliates stand to benefit greatly from that kind of service, as well as other community investments that a Comcast/ Time Warner combination will bring to more Americans.

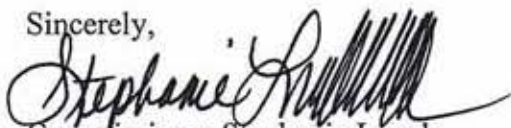
For instance, in homes where literacy is weak, moms, dads and kids could 'attend' online classes in basic education that are provided completely free. That's possible thanks to an association Comcast set up in December with the non-profit Khan Academy. Once people get connected, there's no limit to the potential for new learning opportunities, whether it's pursuing higher education, getting exposure to job networks or expanding one's cultural horizons.

Our communities also welcome a corporate partner known for building alliances with diverse groups. Comcast donates money and supplies mentors and other partners for projects that support and celebrate diversity. I understand that Louisiana received \$183,000 last year alone in the form

of scholarships, volunteering and donated services. In addition, we would relish the opportunity to expose our children to Comcast youth programs such as "Leaders and Achievers," which awards college scholarships to young men and women who are improving their communities through service, while earning good grades and displaying leadership qualities.

I and other board members of NOBCO have proven records of speaking for those who often are not be heard above the clamor of big business and government, but whose interests form the promise for our communities' futures. This is why we urge the Commission, as it moves through its deliberations, to carefully weigh the needs and concerns of those whose voices may be harder to hear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Lynch", with a stylized, flowing script.

Commissioner Stephanie Lynch

Caddo Parish, LA

Vice Chair, National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO)